

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 179

By Oliver

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and honor the Grammy-winning Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is proud to be the home of various genres of music that are essential components of the American musical landscape; from Bristol, the birthplace of country music, to Memphis, the blues capital of the world, musicians across the State continue to inspire and influence others with their astounding artistry; and

WHEREAS, during the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, the Tennessee State University (TSU) Aristocrat of Bands won the Best Roots Gospel Album category for their album *The Urban Hymnal*, co-produced by songwriter and producer Dallas Austin, Sir the Baptist, and TSU professor Larry Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, the group also won the Best Spoken Word Poetry Album category for *The Poet Who Sat By the Door*, a collaboration with spoken-word artist J. Ivy; and

WHEREAS, the TSU Aristocrat of Bands is a high-stepping, show-style marching band known for playing a variety of music, including jazz, classical, contemporary, and popular pieces, as well as for its distinct musical style that features clean articulation, expressive dynamics, balance, and technical ability; and

WHEREAS, with these Grammy wins, the TSU Aristocrat of Bands becomes the first collegiate marching band to win a Grammy, a crowning achievement that is just the latest in a long line of "firsts" garnered by the pioneering band; and

WHEREAS, the Aristocrat of Bands was the first HBCU band to appear on national television, during the 1955 Rams vs. Bears NFL game halftime show; the first HBCU band to perform at a presidential inauguration, for John F. Kennedy in 1961; and the first HBCU band to be appointed by the NFL as an official band for the Tennessee Titans, in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the band was also the first collegiate band to perform for the NFL Hall of Fame Halftime Show, in 2014; the first band to play on the Whitehouse lawn, for the celebration of opening the National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016; and the first HBCU wind ensemble to perform literature in the Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival in Chicago, Illinois, in 2018; and

WHEREAS, 2023 will certainly continue to be a hallmark year for the band, as it has been nominated for two NAACP Image Awards for the 54th NAACP Image Awards being held on February 25, 2023; the band received nominations for Outstanding Gospel/Christian Album and Outstanding Gospel/Christian Song; and

WHEREAS, on this noteworthy occasion, it is most fitting that we honor the hard work, talent, and legacy of the TSU Aristocrat of Bands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate and honor the Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands upon its 2023 Grammy wins, extending our best wishes for the esteemed and historic group's continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.